

watershed

Bay Area Business Gives Back Thousands of Employees are Restoring the Bay

Since Save The Bay launched its Community-Based Restoration program in 2000, Bay Area businesses have contributed thousands of volunteer hours helping us restore vital wetland, creek, and island habitats. More than thirty companies have joined us for more than seventy projects at our six sites around the Bay. Their participation has helped us make significant progress in revitalizing and revegetating degraded areas to healthy functioning native habitats.

In the past year, we have been thrilled to see a surge of interest by local businesses to incorporate and promote volunteerism into their corporate culture. PG&E, Oracle, GAP, Levi Strauss, Old Navy, Banana Republic, Cisco, REI, Clif Bar, Chevron, Intuit, Cargill, SUN, eBay, America Online, Agilent Technolo-

gies, Maxygen, Canesta, Cooligy, Ap-terra, Homestead Technologies, AT&T, Hewlett Packard, Kaiser, State Farm, Enterprise, American Express, and others have provided volunteer and financial support. In addition, organizations like Hands On Bay Area, Entrepreneur's Foundation, The Volunteer Center, and Volunteer Match have made it easy for businesses and their employees to plug into these meaningful volunteer opportunities.

These volunteers help propagate and transplant native plants, collect native seed, remove invasive non-native plants,

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▼ *Volunteers from the AMB Property Corporation celebrate after a day of Bay restoration in*



Visit Our Website
www.saveSFbay.org

- ▶ Join the Bay Savers email action network
- ▶ Learn more about volunteer opportunities
- ▶ Sign up for exciting Discover The Bay outings

SAVE THE BAY



Connecting Residents to the Bay

PG&E and Save The Bay have a shared passion to help preserve and restore the health and vitality of the San Francisco Bay. Whether it's through our employee-based Volunteer Stewardship Program or by means of shareholders' charitable contributions to fund Save The Bay's programs, we take great pride in working with Save The Bay and supporting its many efforts.

PG&E employees and their families have worked in partnership with Save The Bay since 2002 to host and participate in restoration events in and around the Bay. As a result of these efforts, we have transplanted thousands of seedlings, removed ice plant to prepare an area to restore native vegetation, and helped build two plant nurseries. Our employees love being part of this effort, evidenced by the fact that many of the same employees return year after year. Save The Bay staff members are among the most dedicated, organized and appreciative people with whom

we partner. They are clever, too, because they assign us the construction projects that our employees love to build!

PG&E's shareholders also support Save The Bay through the company's charitable contributions program. Over the past six years, we have donated nearly \$30,000 to Save The Bay, including funds for its "Canoes In Sloughs" program that provides schoolchildren the opportunity to participate in educational canoe outings on San Francisco Bay.

We are hoping to stage an even larger employee volunteer effort with Save The Bay this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for supporting restoration efforts around San Francisco Bay. Together we are all improving the health of the Bay!



Bob Harris

Vice President – Environmental Affairs
Pacific Gas and Electric Company



Pacific Gas and Electric Company



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Businesses Give Back

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clean up the shoreline, and monitor the sites. These restoration activities help stabilize creek, wetland, and Bay shoreline, improving habitat for fisheries, invertebrates, birds, and other wildlife.

San Francisco Bay plays a central role in our quality of life and economy, making the Bay Area an attractive location for businesses. Save The Bay's Community-Based Restoration program provides opportunities for these businesses to directly participate in hands-on restoration of Bay habitats and give back to the local com-

munities that have contributed to their success.

Key Partners with Save The Bay include East Bay Regional Park District, the City of Palo Alto, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (at San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge and State Ecological Reserve, and Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge), the California Coastal Conservancy, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the national partnership between Restore America's Estuaries and NOAA Fisheries Community-Based Restoration Program.



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The Pacific Herring

Because San Francisco Bay is one of the Pacific herring's favorite spawning spots, these remarkable fish are found here in abundance during the peak spawning period from January to March. One of more

than 180 species in the herring family, the Pacific herring inhabits the inshore waters of the Pacific Ocean from Northern Baja all the way up to Alaska.

An average-sized Pacific herring is about 9 inches long, but they can grow as large as 18 inches. They feed on crustaceans and barnacles, shellfish larva and other fish. Their backs are dark green-blue and they have large silver scales on their sides and bellies, which flash when they turn quickly on their sides. Pacific herring travel in enormous schools that may include millions of fish.

Spawmed in early winter and spring in shallow inshore waters, they spend their first summer growing and beginning to school. When fall arrives, these fish swim out of the Golden Gate into deeper waters, where they mature for three to four years.

Adult fish return to the coastal waters near the Bay in the fall. There, the herring form large schools before passing back through the Gate to spawn. The spawning activity often takes place during rainy weather and occasionally continue until



Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada

July.

The herring seek out shallow, vegetated areas where their sticky eggs can attach. Usually, the eggs adhere to eelgrass, rocks, algae, or rocky jetties but they are sometimes found stuck to garbage and debris. Pacific herring spawn from one to seven days. The males release milt, which fertilizes the eggs. It takes about ten to fourteen days for the eggs to hatch. The larvae feed on invertebrate eggs and algae until they are large enough to make the journey to the open water. After spawning, the adult herring return to the Pacific until the next spawning season.

Pacific herring are an important source of food for birds and other ocean life such as seals and jellyfish and salmon. They also support commercial fisheries, which harvest them for oil, meal, bait and human consumption. The San Francisco Bay herring fishery produced 1340 tons of pacific herring in the 2003-2004 season, primarily for the roe which is prized in Japan, where it is sold in sushi bars.

Pacific herring

Clupea pallasii

SIZE: 5-10"

RANGE: From the Gulf of Alaska to Northern Baja California

FOOD: Plankton, mollusk and fish larvae, crustaceans

Community-Based Restoration Achievements

For five years, Save The Bay's Community-Based Restoration Program has brought people and communities from all over the Bay Area together to restore Bay wetlands and keep them healthy and vibrant. Together, we've accomplished a lot:

- ▶ 18,600 volunteers participated in restoration programs
- ▶ 70,000 native seedlings planted at six shoreline restoration sites
- ▶ 50 tons of invasive non-native plants removed
- ▶ 20 tons of trash collected from the Bay shoreline



Jude Stalker



Keep It Clean! Partners Working Together to Reduce Pollution

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and Save The Bay are partnering in a new public education campaign to protect the Bay from water pollution. To kick off the campaign, the two organizations hosted a three-day mercury thermometer exchange at the Federal and State Buildings in downtown Oakland. Residents traded in mercury thermometers and received free, safe digital thermometers in exchange. The event was a huge success! We collected nearly 400 mercury thermometers in just 3 days and prevented 2.5 billion gallons of Bay water from potentially being polluted by this toxic mercury.

One of the greatest threats to San Francisco Bay is water pollution from residences. Our *Keep It Clean!* campaign is teaching Bay Area residents about what they can do to reduce everyday pollution that harms our Bay. Many common household

items such as mercury thermometers, prescription drugs and detergents contain chemicals that, when improperly disposed of, can flow down the drain and potentially harm the Bay's water quality and wildlife.

For example, mercury, which is highly toxic to humans and wildlife even in small concentrations, can enter San Francisco Bay through the

sanitary sewer system when a thermometer breaks and spills into a sink. Collecting old mercury thermometers from households reduces the chance of a mercury spill that could be toxic to humans and the Bay.

EBMUD and Save The Bay will sponsor a variety of events during the year to engage residents in protecting the Bay, including another mercury thermometer exchange, a prescription drug drop-off, and a Bay-friendly car wash.



▲ Save The Bay volunteers collected nearly 400 mercury thermometers for proper disposal.

Upcoming Pollution Prevention Events

Check www.saveSFbay.org for times and locations to participate in upcoming pollution prevention events sponsored by EBMUD and Save The Bay.

Thermometer Exchange Our first event was such a success that we will be holding another exchange event later in the year.

Prescription Drug Drop-Off Prescription medicines cannot be removed through wastewater treatment and end up polluting the Bay. Instead of flushing prescription medicines down the drain, bring them to our next prescription drug drop-off event.

Bay Friendly Car Wash Washing cars in the driveway or street allows oil, grease and heavy metals to flow down the storm drain untreated into the Bay. Car wash facilities are better for the Bay because wastewater is treated. Join us for a discounted car wash this spring!

Moffett Field Wetlands One Step Closer to Cleanup

Full cleanup of Superfund Site 25 in the Moffett Field wetlands is one step closer, thanks to the efforts of the thousands of community activists who responded to our Bay Saver alerts and requests for action. The U.S. Navy has received nearly 400 e-mails and more than 2000 petition signatures demanding the full cleanup of the Mountain View shoreline site.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which now manages the site, informed the Navy that the intended future use of Site 25 will change to include tidal marsh supporting a fish-based ecosystem. NASA, responding to public pressure, conducted its own analysis of site conditions and determined that at least a portion of the site could be restored to a full tidal wetland while other parts could function as managed ponds and seasonal tidal marsh.

But the Navy's proposed site cleanup study, released in November, does not adequately explore the tidal marsh option. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has criticized the Navy's study as unacceptable. The EPA is asking for further data collection and a reassessment of the risk from contaminants, such as PCBs and lead, would pose to wildlife if they are left in place.

The Navy, which used Moffett Field as an airbase until 1991, is responsible for cleaning up its toxic pollution to a level that will allow NASA to restore the wetlands in the future. Restoring the Moffett Field wetlands would return it to its historical function as a natural filter for the Bay and vital wildlife habitat.

The Navy must respond to the EPA's comments before issuing a Draft Feasibility Study that will include cleanup alterna-



▲ At Save The Bay's October 14th rally, Mountain View residents sign Save The Bay's rolling petition calling for a full cleanup of Site 25 at Moffett Field.

tives for Superfund Site 25. This crucial document due to be released in May will decide what approach the Navy will take to clean up the site.

Stay Alert, Join Bay Savers

Watch for updates on the Moffett Field wetlands and for opportunities to take action. Your help is vital in the campaign to force the Navy to fully cleanup the wetlands. Signup for Bay Savers email action alerts at www.saveSFbay.org.



San Francisco Waterfront: Bay Views Transformed

The Bay waterfront of San Francisco has been an ever-changing landscape over the last 150 years. In the Gold Rush era, the Embarcadero was bustling with saloons, streetcars and ships from overseas. In the industrial age



▲
The San Francisco Ferry Building is aglow at night.

that followed, the waterfront whirled with activity as trains and ships landed their cargos in China Basin. The demolition of the Embarcadero freeway after the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 prompted the transition on the City's Bay side. Now revitalization of the

waterfront is making the Bay a busy hub for trade and transport, as well as a growing recreational resource for the entire Bay Area.

The successful transformation of Crissy Field from a military airfield to a National Park has featured two years of active restoration of native salt marsh and dune habitat. Today, Crissy Field is a bustling natural shoreline within an urban setting, providing joggers, cyclists, birdwatchers, wind and kite surfers, dog walkers, beach goers and native plant enthusiasts an opportunity to connect with the Bay in their backyard.

The Embarcadero has undergone a complete transformation, which has brought rising numbers of Bay residents and tourists to the water's edge. The spectacular renovation of the Ferry Building has been central to this increased attention, and visitors to this historic hub of activity can now go there to eat, shop, browse the farmer's markets next to the Bay and board a Ferry. The beautiful boulevard that replaced the freeway now encourages walking and biking along the

shoreline, and parks, playgrounds, art installations and interpretive information create a recreational attraction on the edge of the city. The construction of SBC Park has attracted baseball fans from across the country to the waterfront and the best ballpark in the nation.

For Bay residents who want to get on the Bay in San Francisco, Save The Bay partners with City Kayak at Pier 38, to explore while paddling McCovey Cove, the newly landscaped Mission Creek, the San Francisco houseboats, and the redevelopment of Mission Bay from an abandoned rail yard to a new mixed-use urban neighborhood.

The southeastern waterfront has also seen recent restoration and renovation to increase public access and recreational opportunities, notably India Basin Shoreline Park, Islais Creek, and Heron's Head Park. Islais Creek, once a main tributary for the eastern watershed of San Francisco, offers a boat launch and an educational display of the rich history of the creek. Heron's Head park, managed by the Port of San Francisco, offers vibrant waterfowl habitat and wetland restoration in a location that was once a dilapidated pier.

The industry that exists along the San Francisco waterfront today is reminiscent of the City's former role as a primary harbor on the West Coast. Mixed with new shoreline access, historic renovations, and recreational opportunities, the Bay waterfront of San Francisco is a refreshing and inspiring location to visit.

—Jessica Parsons
Education Programs Manager

In each issue we cover an exciting place or event around the Bay which Save The Bay members can experience on one of our Discover The Bay outings.

To see the complete Discover The Bay listings, visit:
www.saveSFbay.org

A Legacy for the Bay and Save The Bay

Polly Osborne Smith fell in love with the Bay through her love for a sailor. “My husband’s hobby was sailing, and after we moved to Tiburon from Seattle in 1954, he bought a boat. I was his part-time crew.” Polly’s favorite sailing trips were to the Delta. “It was so undeveloped, and the water was a little warmer than the Bay, perfect for swimming.”

“I was originally from the east coast, and to me the Bay was a jewel in the middle of the surrounding hills. As we enjoy it we also feel a responsibility to protect it.”

Polly learned more about water pollution issues when, in the early 1970s, a friend urged her to run for election to a suddenly open seat on the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors. Her father was particularly concerned that Polly “didn’t know enough about pipes,” and she was busy raising six children. She won, and later served on the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

“I learned that people like me, concerned citizens with a basic liberal arts education, can make very good board members and decide what’s best for the public interest.”

“I love the story of how Save The Bay got started, loved serving on Save The Bay’s Board for nine years, and meeting in Sylvia McLaughlin’s house. I was in awe of her – she’s ‘the cat’s pajamas’.”

“People know the Bay still needs saving from over-development, residential and agricultural water pollution. Save The Bay has been more politically oriented than some other regional organizations – it has been instrumental in securing laws that protect and restore the Bay. That willingness to advocate makes Save The Bay relevant and effective – it should have an endowment to be a permanent force.”

Polly decided to leave a legacy for Save The Bay through her will. “With six children and 16 grandchildren, I’m not leaving that much to charity, but I care about Save The Bay. I wanted to leave some lasting gift to this great organization, and ask other people to do so.”



▲ Polly Osborne Smith.

Leave a Legacy for the Bay

Include Save The Bay in your estate plans and help the Bay for generations to come. There are many ways to make a legacy gift, for example:

- ▶ Name Save The Bay as a benefactor through your will
- ▶ Give through a revocable living trust
- ▶ Give through a charitable lead trust
- ▶ Donate real property, such as real estate
- ▶ Name Save The Bay as a benefactor of your life insurance policy or retirement plan

For information about how you can leave a legacy for Save The Bay, please contact Eliza Dexter at (510) 452-9261 ext.106, or edexter@savesfbay.org, or use the reply envelope in this newsletter.

calendar

For more outings or to register on-line, visit our website: www.saveSFbay.org or call our office: (510)452-9261 x124.

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**Discovering
the San Francisco
Waterfront**

Sat., Mar. 19 | **Bair Island Paddle and Restoration** Please join us for a canoe paddle to Middle Bair Island, where we'll haul up and get busy removing non-native ice plant.

Sat., Mar. 19 | **Stevens Creek - Moffett Wetlands Walk** Walk with us along Stevens Creek and learn about the history of Moffett Field's Site 25 wetlands and the opportunities for future restoration.

Sat., Apr. 9 | **Marin Islands Kayak and Restoration** Spend the day kayaking and doing valuable restoration work at this unique island site, usually off limits to the public.

These islands are critical habitat for many bird species, especially egrets and herons.

Sat., Apr. 23 | **Bair Island Paddle and Restoration** This Earth Day, take advantage of a unique opportunity to enjoy a scenic canoe paddle and lend a hand with valuable habitat restoration work. Bair Island is a protected site, generally off limits to the public.

Sat., Apr. 23 | **Sunset Paddle at Gallinas Creek** Celebrate Earth Day on the Bay! Join us on a sunset canoe outing on beautiful Gallinas Creek. As we wind through the slough to the open Bay, we will discuss conservation of the Bay and its watershed, and how you can help to celebrate, protect and restore our estuary.

Sun., Apr. 24 | **Sail the Gas Light on Opening Day** Come aboard the historic scow schooner *Gas Light* and take part in leading the parade of boats along the San Francisco waterfront in celebration of Opening Day on the Bay.

Sat., Apr. 30 | **Wildflower Walk at Ring Mountain** You don't have to travel far to be delighted by spring wildflowers. A diverse mix of soils on the grassy slopes of Ring Mountain in Corte Madera yields a stunning array of blooming flora. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Bay as well.

Sat., May 7 | **Mother's Day Paddle on the Napa River** Celebrate Mother's Day weekend and the spring sunshine on this scenic canoe tour of Bull Island on the Napa River. We will wind through the native tule reeds and discuss the importance of this piece of the Bay to migrating wildlife and farmers alike.

Sat., Jun. 4 | **Birding by Canoe at the Palo Alto Baylands** Come explore the Palo Alto Baylands and catch a glimpse of the birds that nest there during the summer. As we paddle through these protected wetlands, we'll discuss the importance of this habitat and what Save The Bay is doing to restore it.

SAVE THE BAY celebrates, protects and restores San Francisco Bay by waging effective advocacy campaigns and building the community's connection to the Bay through hands-on watershed education and restoration programs.

SAVE THE BAY

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